

March 13, 1974

I'm not going to lose any sleep about that. The only thing about it, you go ahead and tell your Independents that they can't run for political office because you saw by this constitutional amendment, Senator Mahoney and some of the rest of you, that you have fixed it so they can't by constitution.

PRESIDENT: Now, Senator Cavanaugh, your light just went on. Senator Syas was closing on his amendment. Do you have a question regarding the order or some other technicality? Thank you. Senator Mahoney, do you have a question about the order. He was closing on his amendment and I asked for that specifically before he started and I asked if there was any further debate. What is your question?

SENATOR MAHONEY: I'll have to do this carefully, won't I?

PRESIDENT: The question is if you support the Syas amendment, vote aye. If not, vote no. You are voting on the Syas amendment to LB649. Once again have you all voted? I will ask again, have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 6 nays, 22 not voting.

PRESIDENT: Read the results. The amendment is adopted. Are there other amendments to the bill?

CLERK: No motion, no amendments but there is a motion. I move to indefinitely postpone LB649, signed, Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner for his motion then.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise with some fear to make this motion. However, it seems to me that the only or at the least the principal arguments that I've been hearing both in and outside the Legislature for some time is that this issue should be put on the ballot to give the public a chance to vote. And obviously, that kind of an argument is the most difficult to argue against because the public always should have a right to vote. But it seems to me the Legislature has a greater responsibility when it comes to constitutional amendments. That we do not just put them on to provide a chance a vote. But, to me at least, when you put a constitutional amendment on the ballot, with rare exceptions, it is as a recommendation to the citizens of Nebraska that we feel that this a desirable change. I don't believe there is a public demand. Certainly the attempts at petitions in recent years have not indicated any public demand as I find it difficult at least to justify spending the \$10,000 that's required in advertising for each constitutional amendment unless there is some accomplishment to be gained. I would have some concern that there would be those who might support...who might support a change to a partisan body but for reasons that would not have anything to do with our system of government, occasionally I run into citizens who express that feeling of support. And then upon questioning, you find that there was some legislation that was enacted or defeated which was really their problem. And somehow or other they felt it was the system rather than the merits of the proposals or the lack of it, that had the effect of creating the result in the proposed legislation that they wanted. It seems to me we should keep in mind that the quality of government is not determined by the